



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEWS
The Monthly Electronic Newsletter of
The Bureau of Emergency Management
Division of Emergency Services
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SEVERE WEATHER WEEK IN NEW ENGLAND APPROACHES – The National Weather Service has declared May 1st to May 5th as Severe Weather Awareness Week in New England. The designation is part of an effort to increase public knowledge of the dangers of severe summer weather and how to protect against it. The major summer weather hazards are thunderstorms and lightning; thunderstorm winds, downdrafts, downbursts and microbursts; hail; tornadoes; floods and flash floods.

Severe weather can occur anytime in New England. But in the summer people are outdoors much of the time and on vacation, making them more susceptible. New England attracts thousands of visitors from around the country who may not be aware of the dangers of severe weather or what to do if it strikes. More information on severe summer weather will be posted on the website of the National Weather Service office in Gray, Maine, May 1st through May 5th at <http://www.erh.noaa.gov/er/gyx>.

SEABROOK CONDUCTS GRADED EXERCISE – Seabrook Station and emergency responders from N.H. state agencies, private organizations and local communities, together with their counterparts in Massachusetts and Maine, conducted a two-day Ingestion Pathway exercise on April 11th and 12th. The first day of the drill covered the response phase of the exercise scenario, while the second day required the planning of re-entry and long-term recovery strategies. That included detailed plotting and analysis of the exercise radiological deposition pattern by state Radiological Health teams, assisted by the Federal Radiological Monitoring and Assessment Center (FRMAC) with flyovers of the area.

FEMA conducted a public meeting in Seabrook on April 20th to discuss preliminary results of the exercises. A detailed evaluation is expected within 90 days. Ingestion Pathway exercises are conducted for each U.S. nuclear plant every six years.

VERMONT YANKEE CONTINUES POWER INCREASE – Vermont Yankee nuclear power plant continues to make progress on its 20 percent increase in power. The plant has been increasing power in stages, pausing for tests at each increment. As of April 22nd the plant had attained 115 percent of its former maximum output. The plant received permission last month from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to increase output to 110 megawatts.

VY INTRODUCES TELEPHONE WARNING SYSTEM – Vermont Yankee is introducing a new telephone-based warning system to inform nearby residents in the event of a radiological emergency at the plant. The new system, called CodeRED, is an extremely high-speed dialing system that can call up to 60,000 telephones an hour with a recorded message. The system can be geographically targeted to call all or parts of the VY Emergency Planning Zone. It is designed to augment existing sirens and tone alert radios.

CodeRED was successfully tested on April 18. When it is fully implemented, residents will be able to call in to add their cell phone or other numbers to the system's database.

FEMA OFFERS ON-LINE DISASTER PREVENTION COURSE – FEMA's Emergency Management Institute is offering an on-line course aimed at helping homeowners and small business owners prevent disaster damage to their properties. Most of EMI's course offerings are geared to emergency managers and other public safety personnel, but *Protecting your Home or Small Business from Disaster* is for anyone who owns property. The course is presented in a non-technical format and includes protective measures that can reduce disaster damage. The course includes a discussion of different types of natural disasters and the hazards they pose to homes and small business properties, as well as protective measures to reduce or eliminate long-term risks and business losses.

There are no prerequisites for the course, which is number IS-394A. Access to the course is through the EMI Independent Study website, which is located at <http://training.fema.gov/EMIWeb/IS/crslist.asp>.

WELCOME ABOARD! – Five new staff members have recently joined the Bureau of Emergency Management. Section Chief John Wynne and Communications Technician Jim Lindquist are in the Communications Section. The Biological Terrorism Section has added Mike Radke as Response Clinic Coordinator and Nadine Manfredi as Health Alert Network Coordinator. Danielle Morse has joined the Tech Hazards Section as Program Assistant. Welcome to all.

MAY IS A BUSY MONTH FOR EXERCISES - The Town of Wolfeboro and Huggins Hospital will host a Homeland Security tabletop on May 1st. The Town of Greenfield will host Homeland Security exercise on May 6th, with another Homeland Security exercise in Derry on May 12th. The N.H. Disaster Behavioral Health Response Team, based at BEM, will be hosting an exercise on May 13th. Also on the 13th the Pease Fire Department will hold its triennial mass casualty incident drill. On May 21st the City of Manchester will conduct a tactical Homeland Security exercise at the Manchester airport. And, the N.H. Department of Environmental Services and the Piscataqua River Cooperative will conduct a hazardous materials exercise on the river on May 23rd.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – Governor Lynch has signed into law HB 1765, which authorizes the expenditure of up to \$2,911,000 in state funds to pay for public infrastructure damage that resulted from the flooding last October. Federal funds would pay for 75 percent of damage. The local share would be 12.5 percent of the total, or \$5,000, whichever is lower. The state funds would be used to cover the balance of the state/local match. The legislation targets flood damage in Cheshire, Sullivan, Grafton, Merrimack and Belknap counties.

The Senate Finance Committee is considering HB 1767, which would allocate up to \$3.4 million to buy flood-damaged property in Alstead, Langdon and Walpole and set up a committee to determine future public use of the acquired property. The bill has already passed the House.

On the recommendation of the Finance Committee, the full Senate killed HB 1489, relative to school emergency planning. The bill would have required site-specific school emergency plans for all schools in New Hampshire, utilizing the National Incident Management System. The bill had earlier passed both the House and Senate on voice votes.

SAVE THE DATE – Mark your calendar for an important emergency management conference on June 12th. “*Local Emergency Preparedness: Applying Knowledge to Practice*” will be held at the Courtyard by Marriott and Grappone Center in Concord. It is sponsored by the state departments of Safety and Health and Human Services, N.H. Health Officers Association, Community Health Institute and the N.H. Hospital Association. For more information, call 603-573-3306.